

H.353

Introduced by Representative Cordes of Lincoln

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Energy; weatherization; funding

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the fee on the purchase of fossil fuels to fund the Home Weatherization Assistance Program. The bill also proposes to create a weatherization trades workforce recruitment and training program funded through the Home Weatherization Assistance Program.

An act relating to weatherization funding and weatherization workforce recruitment

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that, in addition to the weatherization efforts provided under the current Home Weatherization Assistance Program established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 25, an increased pace of weatherization would benefit the health of Vermont citizens, the environment, and the economy. Accelerated weatherization efforts will:

(1) decrease the emission of greenhouse gases;

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## § 2503. FUEL TAX

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Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 2504 is added to read:

(B) organize informational sessions, meetings, and other group and individual opportunities for prospective trainees and weatherization companies to connect; and

1           (C) coordinate matches between trainees and employers.

2           (2) In the event of a successful match, the Department shall facilitate the  
3           negotiation and execution of training and employment agreements, pursuant to  
4           which:

5           (A) a prospective trainee agrees to pursue specified training,  
6           education, or certification necessary to meet the employer's workforce need;

7           (B) the Department agrees to provide educational and administrative  
8           support to the trainee and the cost of training; and

9           (C) the employer agrees to employ the trainee upon the successful  
10          completion of training, passage of an examination, or attainment of a required  
11          certification, or a combination of these.

12          (3) The CTE centers, subject to approval by the Department, shall  
13          provide education and training that meet the needs of trainees and employers.

14          (b) The Department shall have the authority to use available private, State,  
15          and federal funding to implement the provisions of this section, including up to  
16          \$250,000 from the Home Weatherization Program established in section 2502  
17          of this title.

18          (c) On or before January 15, 2020, the Department shall submit a report to  
19          the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General  
20          Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

1     addressing the implementation of this section, profiles of trainees and  
2     employers that participated, and any recommendations for further action.

3     Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

4     This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.